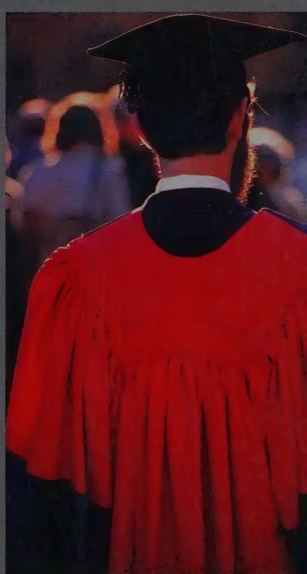
OXFORD



INSPIRED IMAGES 2

With a Foreword by His Grace The Duke of Marlborough

JON DAVISON

OXFORD

INSPIRED IMAGES 2

Degree Day, the Sheldonian Theatre

I pay the school teacher, but 'Tis the schoolboys that educate my son.

EMERSON journal, 1849

Degree Day, the Sheldonian Theatre

OXFORD

INSPIRED IMAGES 2

JON DAVISON

To my son Luke . . .

Photographed, Designed and Produced by Jon Davison
Finished Artwork by Bob Prescott Design Associates
Introduction by Tim Davies
Quotations compiled by Johnny Coppin & Jon Davison

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Tim Davies: page 73 bottom

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A Sub-tropical Glasshouse of the Botanical Gardens, originally part of the Faculty of Medicine, and then known as 'Physick Garden'.

It is good to be alone in a garden at dawn
or dark so that all its shy presences may
haunt you and possess you in a reverie of
suspended thought.

JAMES DOUGLAS Down Shoe Lane

FOREWORD

Blenheim Palace.

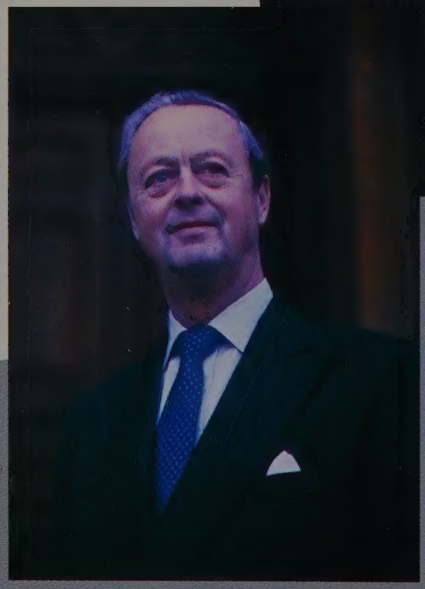
January, 1989

Over the past few years we have seen a marked increase in good photographic material promoting the city of Oxford.

Oxford is a city of colour and mood and this book, together with Jon Davison's Inspired Images 1, for which I also wrote the foreword, has beautifully captured its essence.

No doubt there will be other books on this city as its atmosphere is limitless, but Inspired Images has, I feel, set a precedent and is a fitting souvenir for tourist and local alike.

Marlborough



A south view of Blenheim Palace from the Grand Bridge

An aerial view of the Palace and grounds from the North

INTRODUCTION

Both tourist and inhabitant alike can take something from Oxford, a place so steeped in history and tradition that its name alone evokes splendid images, whilst at the same time it faces each new day as a commercial working city.

Much of Oxford's history has been moulded by the interaction of two factions – Town and Gown. There has been considerable friction between them, brought about in the main because the University's power and status has undermined that of the city. In truth, the 'gown', with its history, tradition, architecture and personality has ensured that the 'town' has taken a back seat. As a result, much of Oxford and its past, is overlooked.

A summer evening's walk through Radcliffe Square reveals the imposing spire of St Mary's Church and the magnificent All Souls College, offering a splendid insight into the beauty of the University. The sandstone glows warmly in the evening light as we move onwards to the Sheldonian, softening the somewhat austere expressions of the Philosopher guards that surround the theatre. By contrast, a short distance away in New Road, concealed by red brick government buildings, is a part of Oxford's past that is older than the University itself. A grassy mound and a

Port Meadow is a large area of land on the north-west side of Oxford. Its present name has been in use since 1285, and came from Portmaneit (Burgess or Freemen Island). Freemen were certain people who were given the privileges of the University, but who were not students. Nowadays it is used for recreation and the grazing of cattle and horses.

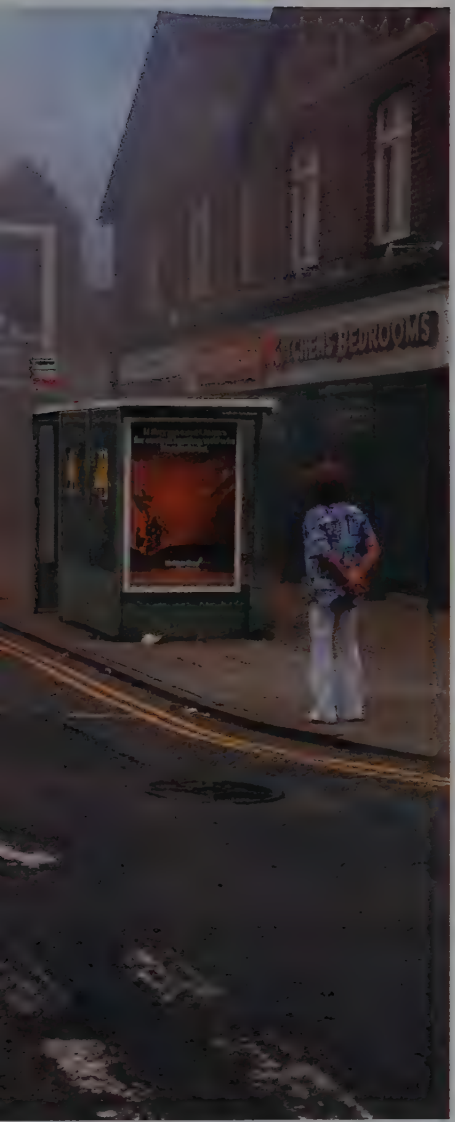
Norman tower bear witness to the winter of 1142 when King Stephen besieged the Empress Mathilda in Oxford Castle. Unimpressive to the eye, it is an integral part of Oxford's history, and the exciting story of Mathilda's escape across the frozen river accompanied by three Knights is a part of the city's rich tapestry. Together the intrigue and splendour of the University and the hidden moments of the city make Oxford the place it is.

Visitors can send postcards that show off Oxford's finer points or leave with their bags full of books which do little more than regurgitate facts. All serve a purpose whilst none can quite capture the true essence of the city. It would be presumptuous to suggest that any one publication could hold within it the multitude of emotions that a visitor, inhabitant or student may experience whilst in Oxford, but this one comes as close as is possible.

Inspired Images 2 picks up where Inspired Images 1 left off. It is a continuation of the same story, using the same means of communication without repeating a single image, thought or deed. This book goes someway towards redressing the balance between town and gown.

the Austin Rover Car plant at Longbridge

ABOVE: The demise of the 'Best Burger Joint in town', Bretts Burgers, burning furiously in Cowley Road
RIGHT: The John Radcliffe Hospital in Headington, taken while the author was waiting for the delivery of the dedication to this book. . . . .4.30am.



ABOVE: Mounted Riot Police on the London Road

Autumn at Balliol College

The 17th century cottages at Trinity College, these once lined the whole of Broad Street

Victories from the inter-college rowing event, Trinity College

Looking south along the Iffley Road from the 'Plain', to where the High St branches off to the old villages of Cowley and Iffley, and to London.

Commercial renovated frontages in St Clements

St Clements and the London Road

You will hear more good things on the outside of a stage coach from London to Oxford than if you were to spend a twelve month with the undergraduates, or heads of colleges, of that famous university. . .

WILLIAM HAZLITT On the Ignorance of the learned

ABOVE: Merton College from Merton Lane
OPPOSITE: Merton Chapel (and Tiger Moth)

Aloft in state the airy towers arise,
And with new lustre deck the wondering skies.
Lo, to what height the schools ascending reach!
Built with that art which they alone can teach.

THOMAS TICKELL from Oxford

The University Sports Centre, formerly the Iffley Road Running Ground, where in 1954 Roger Bannister ran the four minute mile, setting a new world record.

OPPOSITE: The spire of Greyfriars Hall from the Sports Centre, on Iffley Road

---

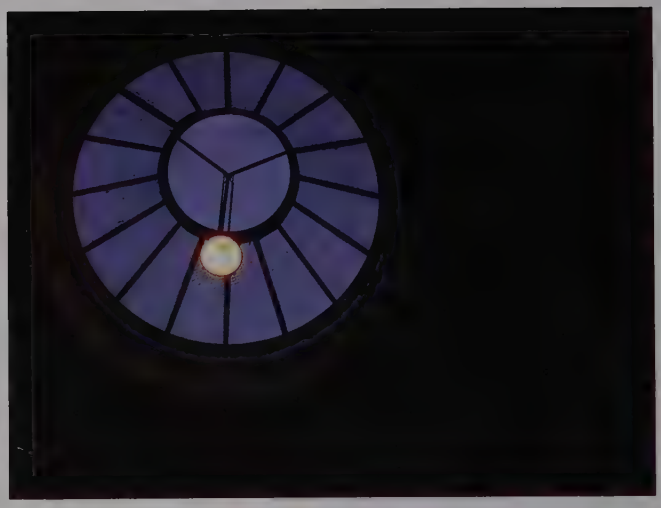
And I remember when you were here;
Something has gone from the living day
With the shifting shadows upon the tower,
Now you're away, now you're away.

A.L. ROWSE Iffley

When the lamps in the house are lighted
it is like the flowering of Lotus on the lake

CHINESE PROVERB

Glazed stairwell skylight in the Ashmolean Museum



Cities have always been the
fireplaces of civilisation,
whence light and heat radiated
out into the dark, cold world-

THEODORE PARKER

Residential houses in New High Street, Headington

Electrified Gaslight at Brasenose College

The first floor gallery at the Museum of Modern Art in Pembroke Street

Temple Road and St Joseph's Tutorial College in Temple Cowley

Unipart House and the Austin Rover new car dispersal area, with the villages of Horspath & Garsington in the distance

The Cowley Road looking toward 'The Plain' and High Street

Victorian terraced houses in Jeune Street, a one way road that links Cowley Road with St Clements

Kite flying in South Park, Headington Hill

The City skyline and the houses on London Road from South Park, Headington Hill

Tremulous — yet beneath, how deep its root!
Timelessness of an afternoon! Air's gems, the walls' bland grey,
Slim spires, hope-coloured fields: these belong to no date

DAVID GASCOYNE Oxford: A Spring Day

TOP: Evening catch on the river Isis at Godstow
ABOVE: . . . On the Thames near Jericho

This little stream whose hamlets
scarce have names,
This far-off, lonely mother of the Thames

WILLIAM MORRIS — June

. . . .On the river Glym at Blenheim Palace

St Giles' Fair, held every September is a colourful reminder of the great medieval county fairs that prospered during the 19th century. St John's College in the background

The Thames and the Medley boat station overlooking Port Meadow

Till sunset was rimming
The West with pale flushes;
Behind the black rushes
The last light was dimming.

LAURENCE BINYON 'Bab-Lock-Hythe'

Winter fishing on the Thames at Medley

The Sheldonian Theatre, which is the earliest example of Renaissance Architecture in Oxford and the first example of Sir Christopher Wren's work, the designer of St Paul's Cathedral, London.

OPPOSITE: The traditional academic 'Doctorate' gown, worn at the degree day

When first the college rolls receive his name,
The young enthusiast quits his ease for fame;
Through all his veins the fever of renown
Burns from the strong contagion of the gown.

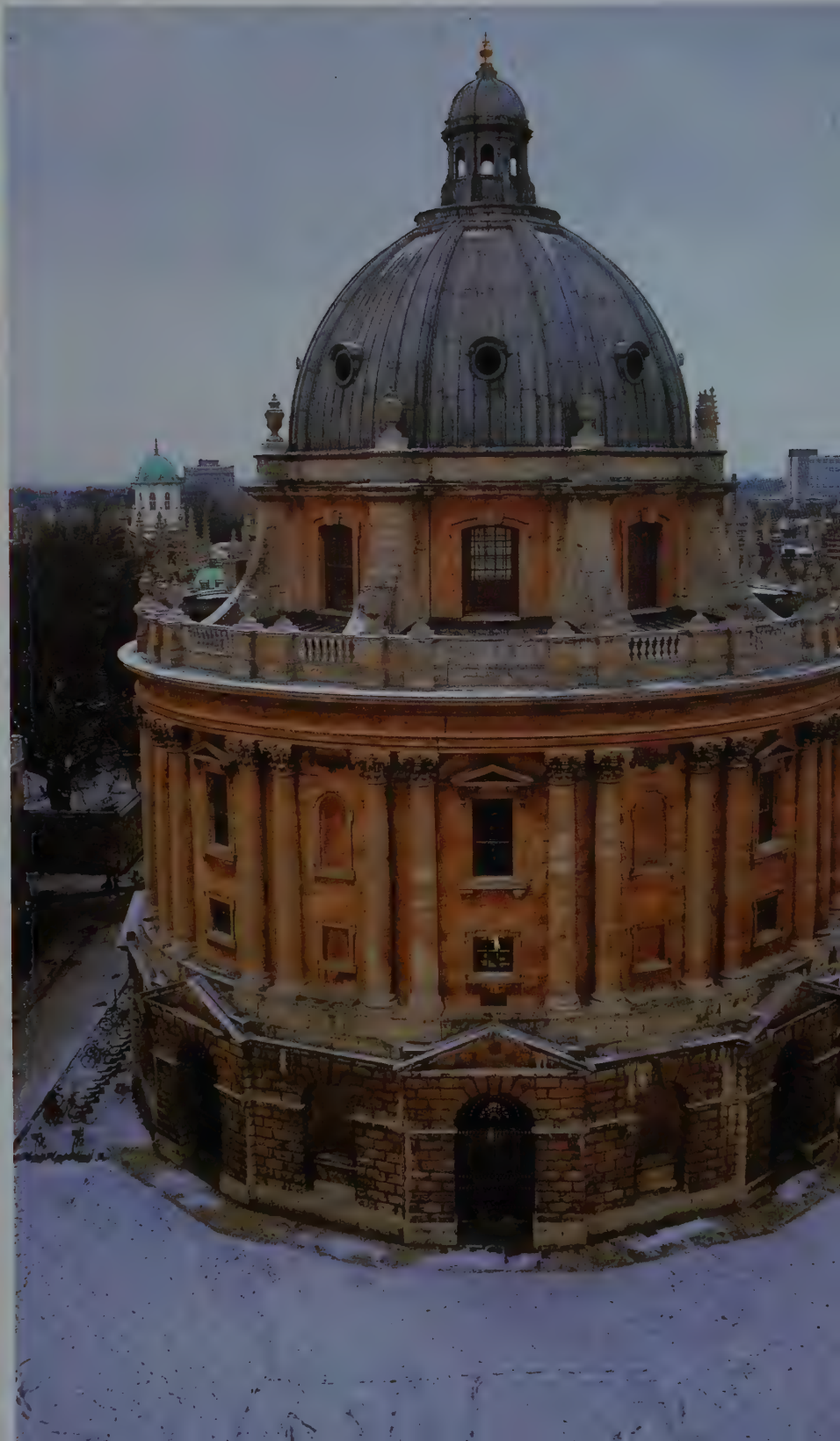
Dr SAMUEL JOHNSON
(The vanity of human wishes)

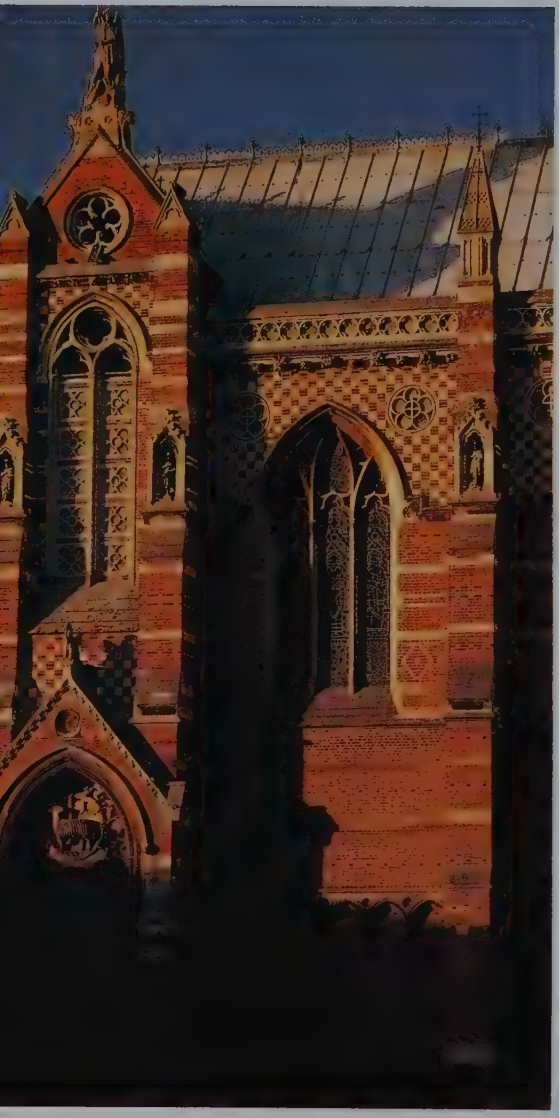
ABOVE: The Mercury Fountain at Christ Church
OPPOSITE: The Radcliffe Camera from St Mary's the University Church

The lovely city, thronging tower and spire,
The mind of the wide landscape, dreaming deep. . . .
ROBERT BRIDGES

The library at All Souls' College and its Sundial, built in 1658 it is thought to have been designed by Sir Christopher Wren, who was the Bursar at the time

ANTVR





Keble College Chapel

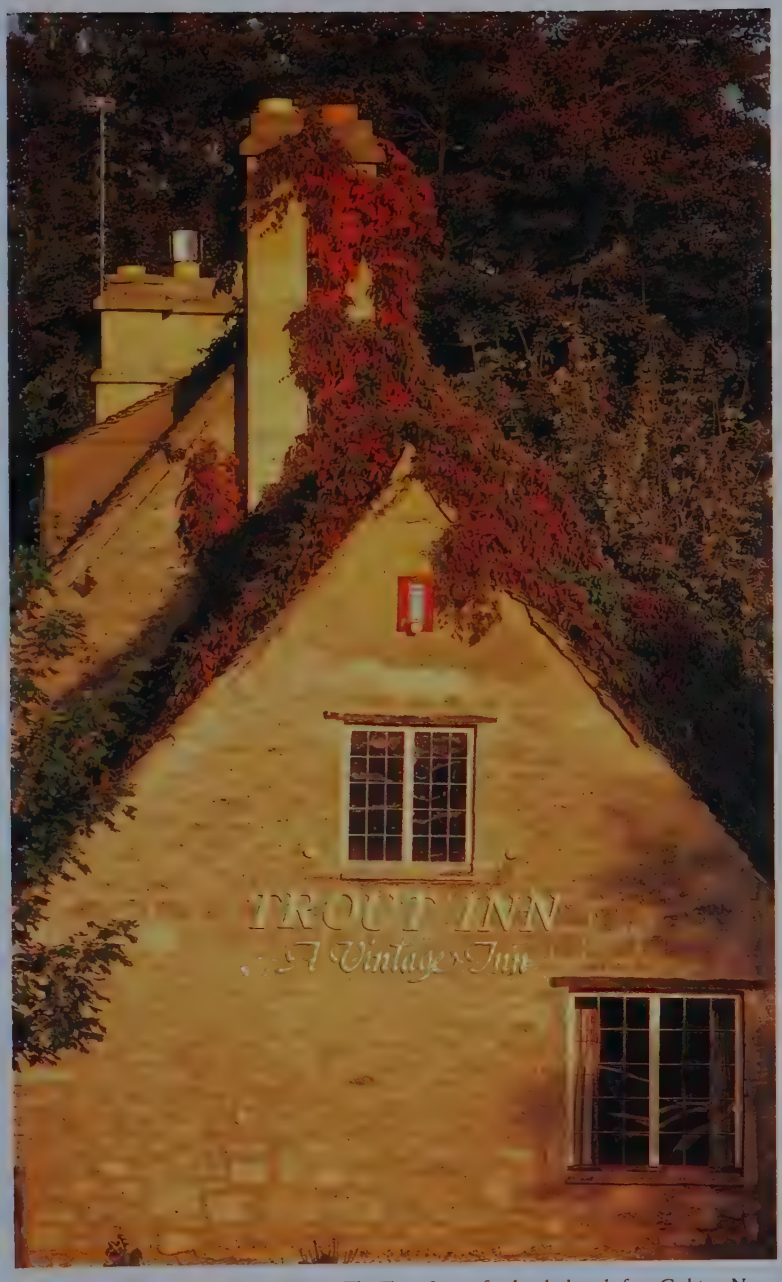
He saw the dark wainscot and timbered roofs.
he long tables, and the faces merry and keen. . .'
HENRY NEWBOLT

Keble College, The Hall.

ABOVE: The Magdalen College Cricket Ground Pavilion, off the Marston Road
OPPOSITE: Freud's arts cafe in Walton Street, formerly St Paul's Centre, part of the Radcliffe Infirmary

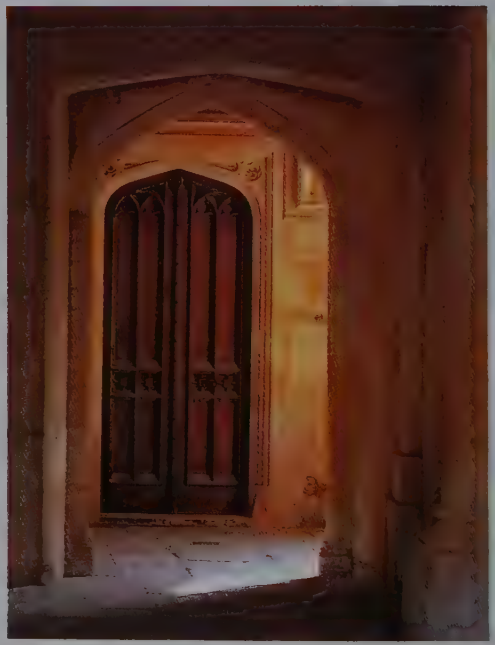
FREUD

The atmospheric ruins of Godstow Nunnery, this, like a host of other religious houses, was destroyed during the Dissolution of the Monasteries and the stone used for building in and around Oxford.



The Trout Inn, a few hundred yards from Godstow Nunnery, both overlooking the Thames

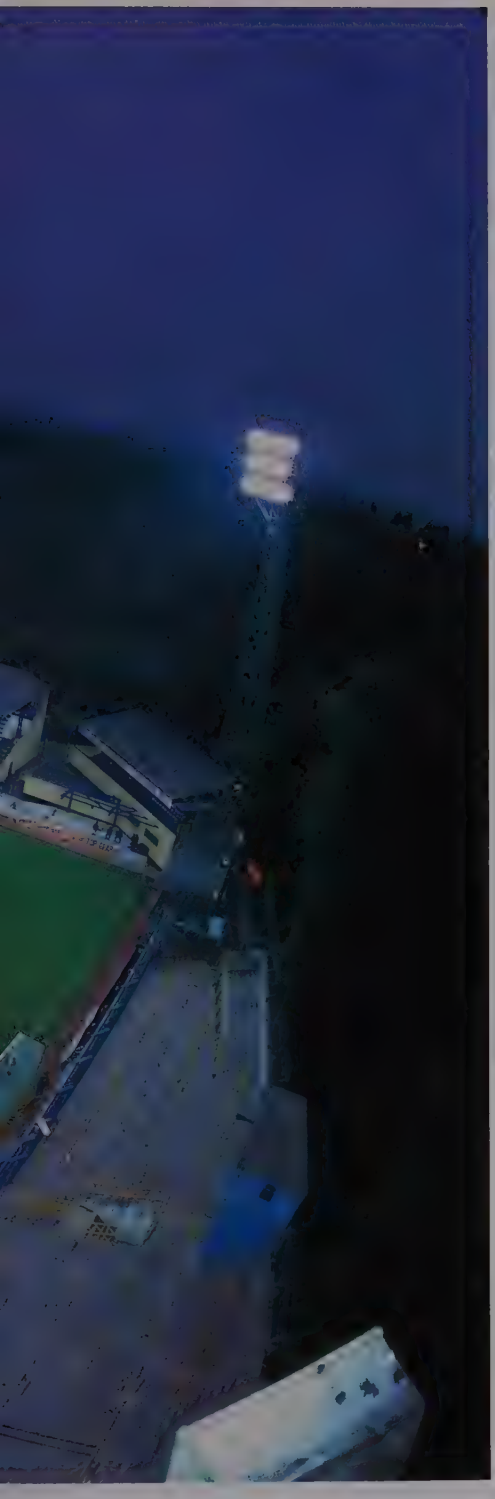
ABOVE: The 15th century Cloisters of Magdalen College, (pronounced Maudlin)
OPPOSITE: Corpus Christi College and the 15th century Pelican sundial

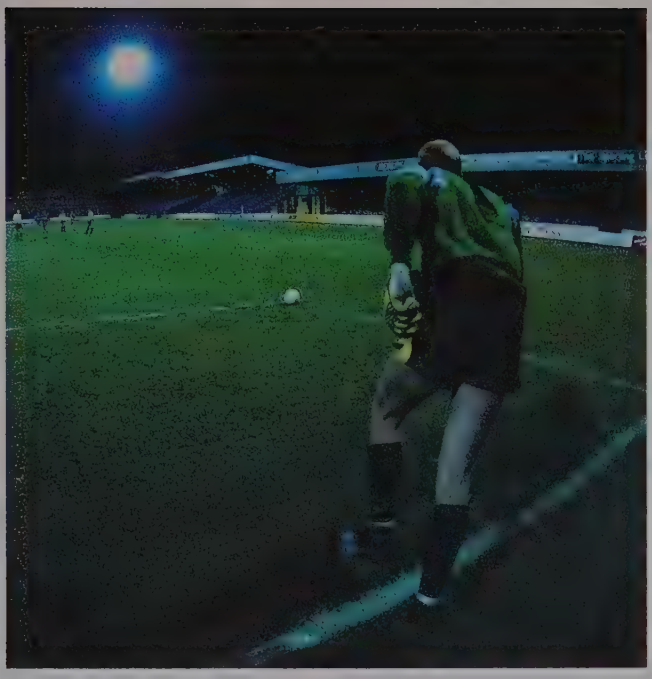


Arched passageway at the Queen's College, showing the remarkable light reflecting properties of the Oolitic Limestone, or 'Cotswold Stone'

EST REPOSITA IUSTITIÆ CORONA

Manor Ground, the home of Oxford United F.C. A view from the top of Osler Road light tower, with the suburb of Headington in the background





Oxford United at work and Osler Road light tower

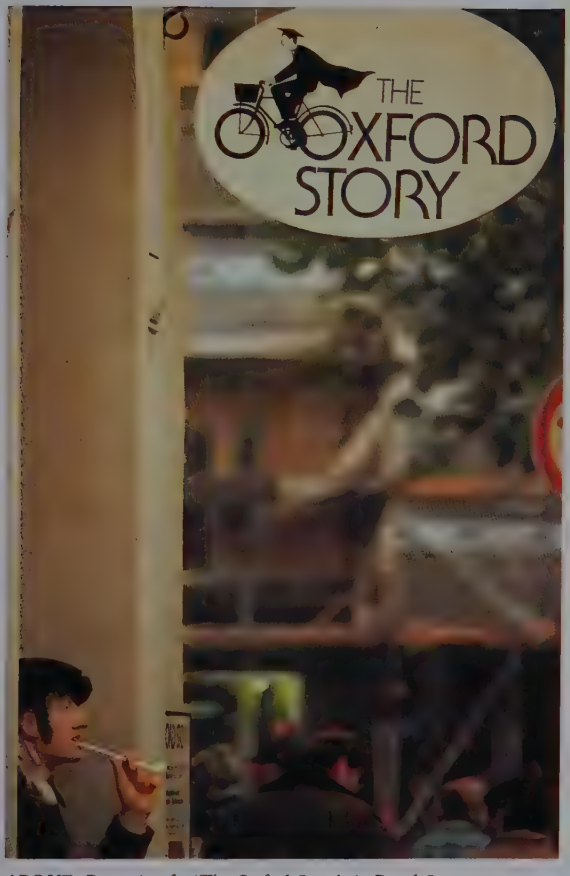
Football is not a matter of life and death,
It's much more important than that.
BILL SHANKLY

The High Street and St Mary's the University Church at 5.30pm.

'Here, said the Fox, is a city of screaming Tyres'
ANNE RIDLER

Looking along Catte Street toward the Bodleian Library, overshadowed by the Radcliffe Camera

HALLS
DUKE OF EDINBURGH
HALLS.
BEERS
THE DUKE
LAGERS
ST CLEMENTS STREET
OXFORD
SCHOOLS
PLAN
SCRAPPED



ABOVE: Promotion for 'The Oxford Story', in Broad Street
OPPOSITE: St Clements Street, at about the point where it becomes the London Road

OVERLEAF: If it wasn't for the cars, this image could have been taken a good few hundred years ago.

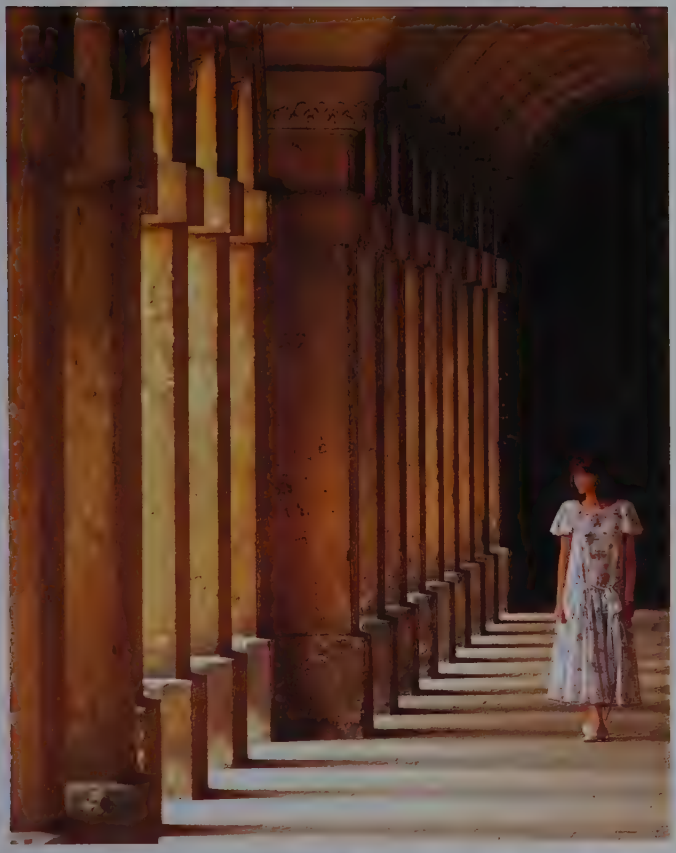
The Randolph Hotel (Trusthouse Forte Group) built in 1864 is on the corner of Beaumont and Magdalen Streets

The 18th century Cloisters of Worcester College from the main quad.

You can fall in love at first sight with a place as with a person.

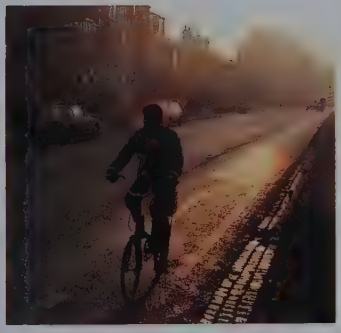
ALEC WAUGH

May Morning 5.30am outside the Radcliffe Camera

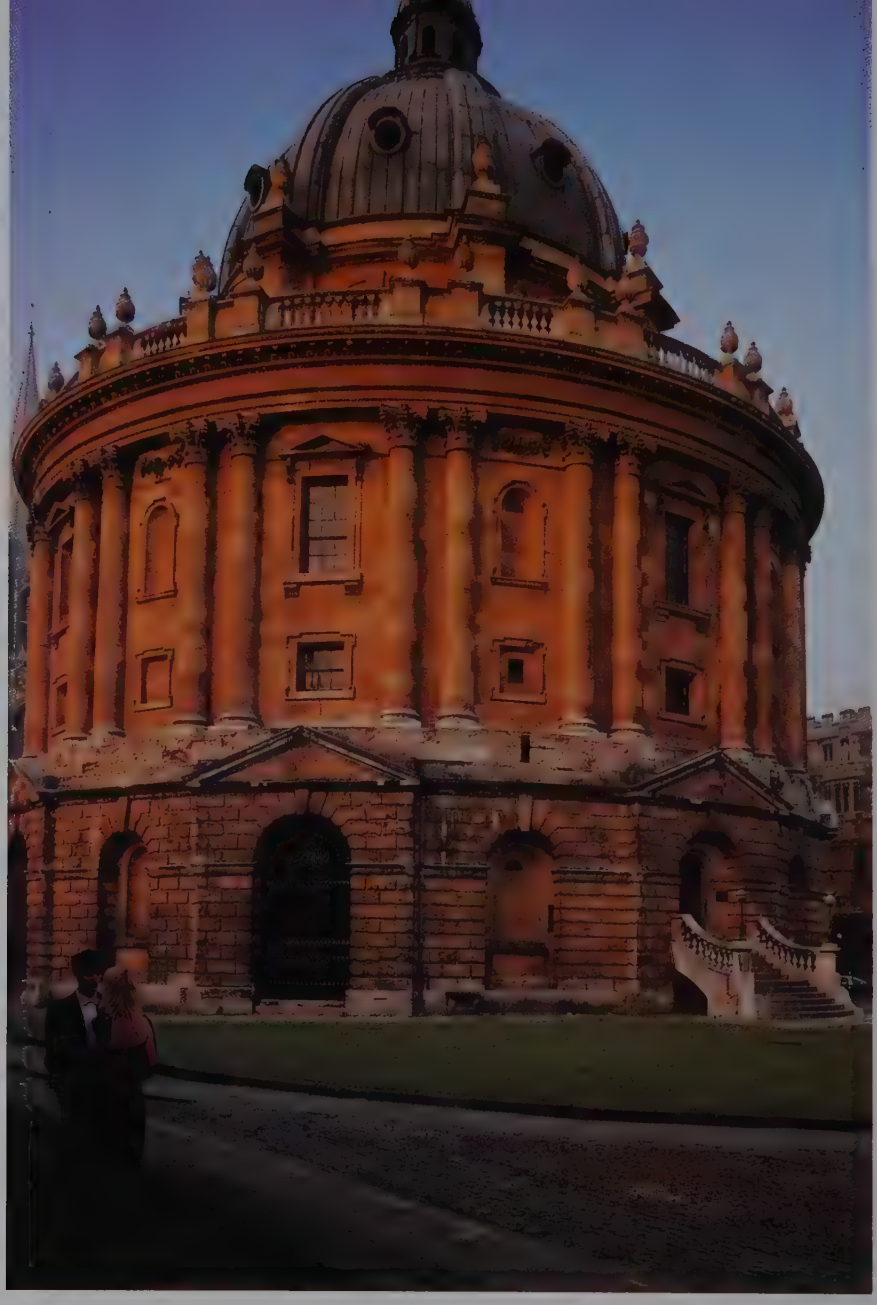


The Cloisters of the 18th century 'New Building' at Magdalen College

Iffley Road



Training on the 'Broad Walk', skirting Merton Field Sports ground.



. . . .after the Ball 6.00am outside the Radcliffe Camera

OPPOSITE: The Bridge of Sighs, linking the two halves of Hertford College in Catte Street

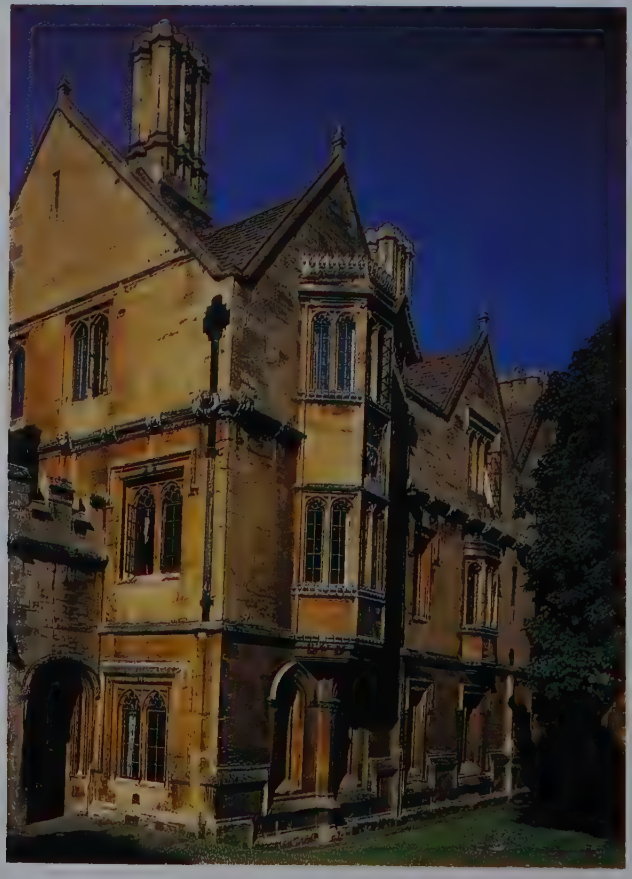
---

We all see more architecture than of any other art,
Every street is a gallery of architects' work. . . .

C.E. MONTAGUE The Right Place

ABOVE: Oxford University: Department of Science, Keble Road
RIGHT: Oxford University: Department of Science, Banbury Road
TOP RIGHT: Lady Margaret Hall, one of the two new halls of residence built in the early 1970s
BOTTOM RIGHT: Lady Margaret Hall, founded and named after Lady Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry VII

February in South Park



Magdalen College from the High Street

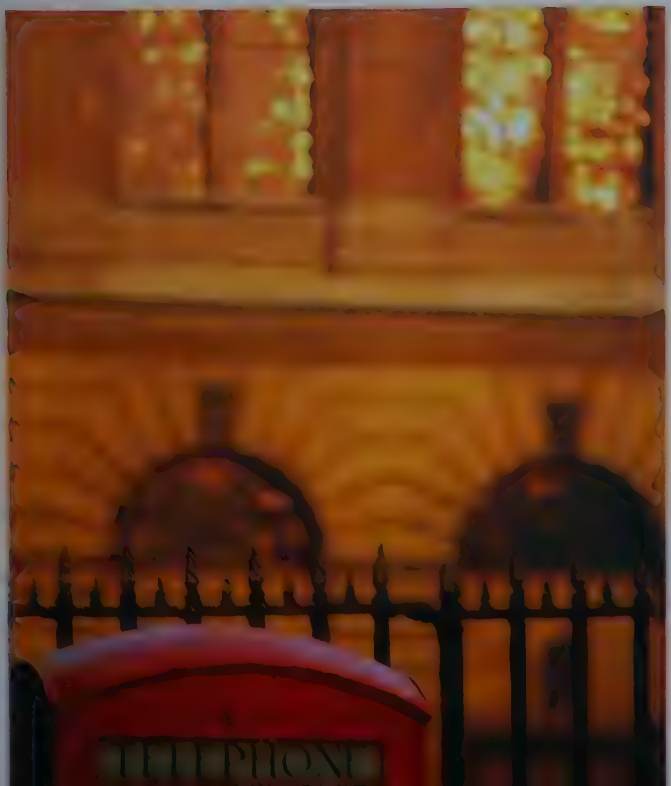
August at Christ Church from the Meadow

Here colleges in sweet confusion rise,
There Temples seem to reach their native skies;
Spires, towers, and groves compose the various shew.

THOMAS TICKELL (1686–1740) Oxford

The Bodleian Library

OPPOSITE: Effigy to St Michael the Dragon Slayer, in St Michael's Street


TELEPHONE

Detail of Merton College, the oldest organised College in Oxford, founded in 1264 almost 300 years after the founding of the Saxon tower (OPPOSITE) of St Michael in the Northgate, Cornmarket Street. The tower is Oxford's oldest building, dating from 1000AD and is on the site of the city's Northgate, demolished in 1771

So we came. . . . . .
To a place where three ways and
Two seasons met,
In the spring at the edge of Oxford

ANNE RIDLER Pegasus in the Botanical Gardens

One of the last remaining stretches of the old city wall, in the grounds of New College, the wall was still vital to the defence of Oxford when the college was built in 1379–1400. The charter for the building of New College said that the wall must be included within it's grounds.

I was so happy to that Ford I came,
Which of the labouring Ox doth bear the name.
It is a spring of knowledge that imparts
A thousand several sciences and arts

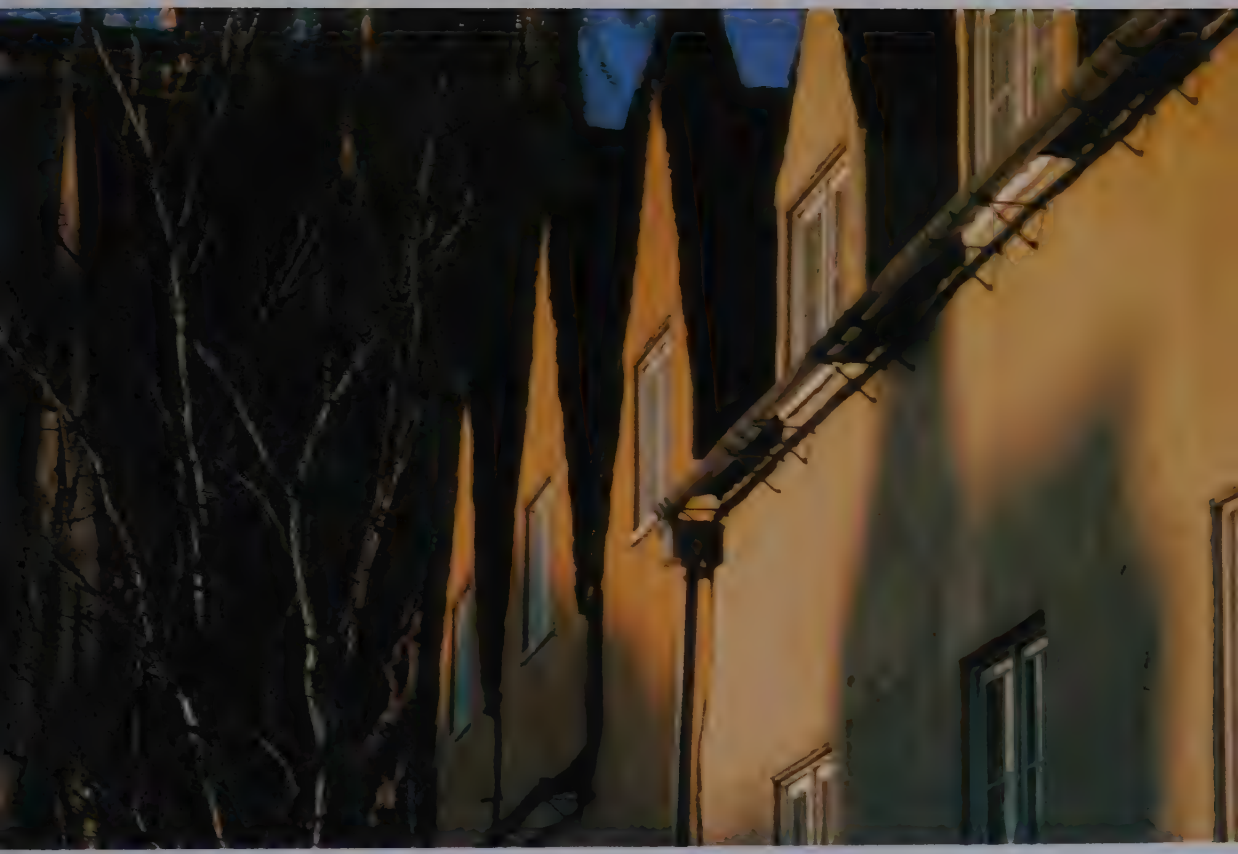
GEORGE WITHER 1588–1667

The 17th century Gate-Tower and Chapel of Trinity College considered by many to be one of Oxford's greatest architectural examples

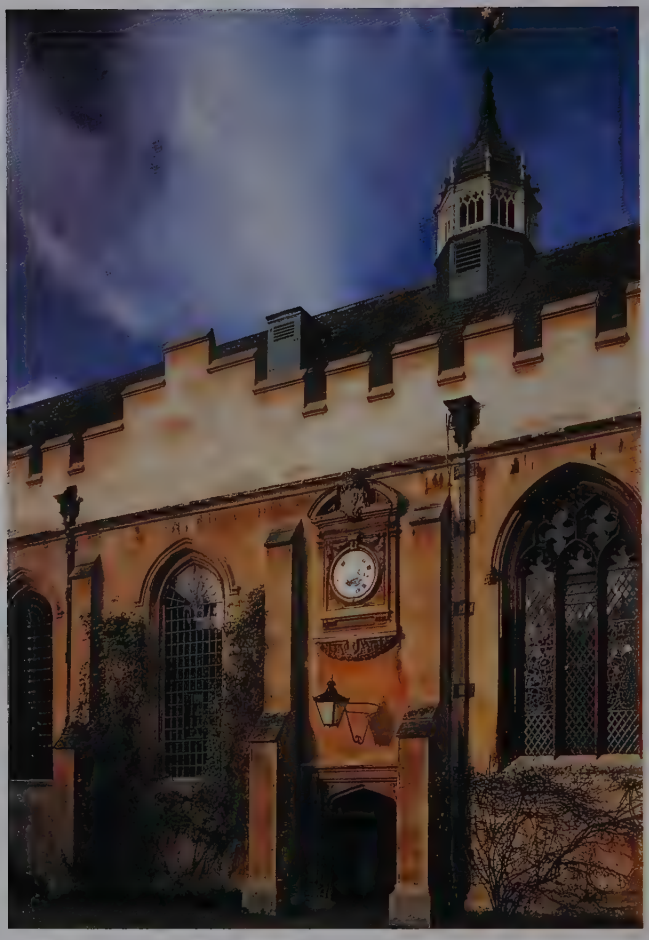
last house on this site
between 1655 and 1668 lived
ROBERT BOYLE
Here he discovered BOYLE'S LAW
and made experiments with an
AIR PUMP designed by his assistant
ROBERT HOOKE
Inventor Scientist and Architect
who made a MICROSCOPE
and thereby first identified
the LIVING CELL

The Plaque to commemorate Robert Boyle in the High Street

Houses in Cherwell St, St Clements.



TOP: 17th century cottages at Trinity College
The Oxford University Press in Walton Street. Although the Press had been operating since the late 1600s, this building was not occupied until 1830



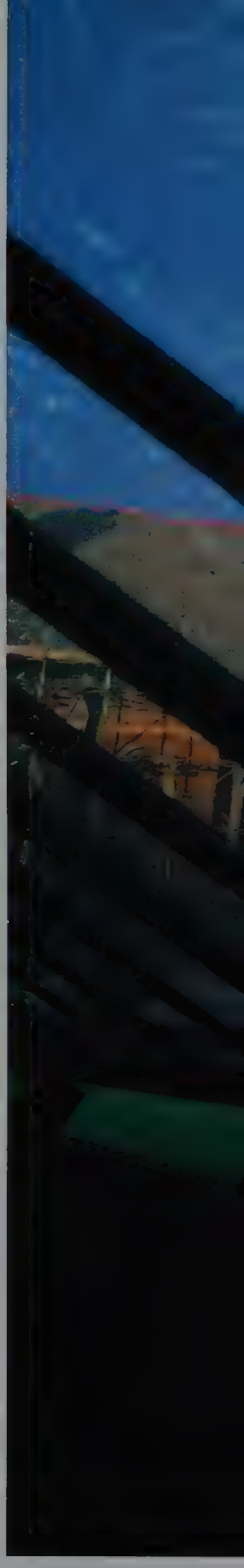
St John's College was founded on May 29th 1555, being dedicated to St John the Baptist.

'Grass and grey stone are of the heart of the Oxford garden. . .'

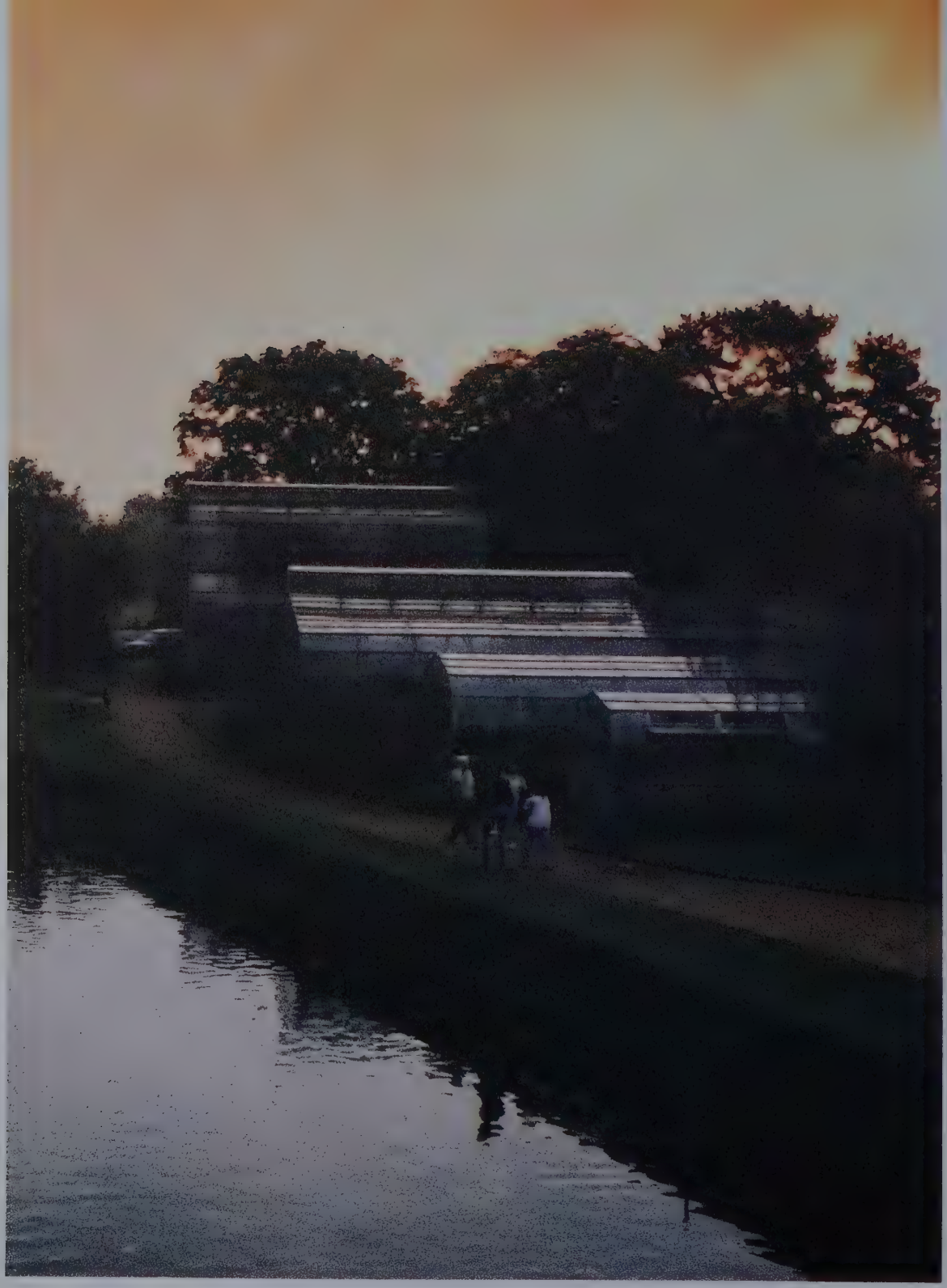
WILLIAM BEACH THOMAS

The Canterbury Quadrangle of St John's College.

Degree Day, the Sheldonian Theatre



Keble College Parks Road



The Botanical Gardens & River Cherwell

The city skyline as seen from Boars Hill

Universities are one of the most obvious and important legacies of the Middle Ages to the modern world. . . . . .

A.L. ROWSE Oxford: in the History of the Nation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

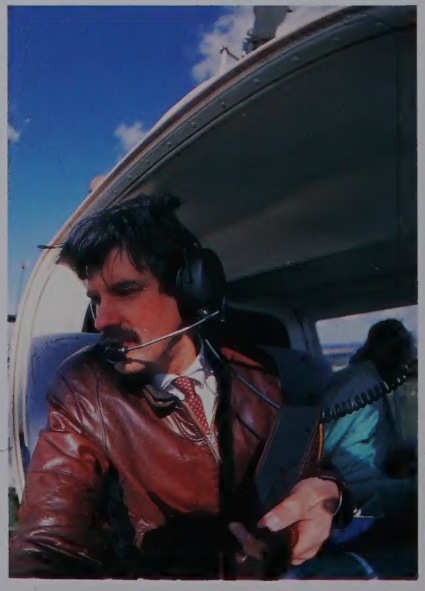
As with any large project or undertaking, there are people involved whose names don't get to appear on the cover, but have nevertheless contributed to the overall feeling of the final product, be it design or direction.

Bob Prescott Design Associates
Richard Leonard at Fairweather & Storm
Alan Bunting & Tim Davies at JDC
Nick McFarlane Watts
Liz Beatty, Worcester College
Oxaero Ltd
His Grace the Duke of Marlborough and the Blenheim Palace Estate
The Randolph Hotel

A special mention must be made to 'The Thursday Night Club'; a source of constant inspiration

PHOTOGRAPHIC NOTES

As with book number one, the bulk of the images were taken with Nikon 35mm equipment, in particular Nikon F3, with Nikkor 16mm, 28PC, 600mm, 200mm, 105mm and 50mm lenses.
These were complemented by a Toyo view 5×4″ plate, and Hassleblad 500c 6×6cm cameras. Film used is exclusively Fujichrome 50, 100, and 3200 ISO, on all formats. No colour enhancement filters were used apart from a Polarising PL-CIR, and the lighting conditions have been recorded as they were perceived.



Jon Davison is an Oxford based photographer, having moved here from his native New Zealand in 1980.
He specialises in the photography of mood; for Travel, Fashion, P.R., Annual Reports etc, and takes risks to get the 'right shot', be it land, sea or air, home or abroad.

Oxford is a city of variations; colleges, spires, punting and May balls as well as British Leyland, Office blocks, wet winters and football. The photographs in *Inspired Images 2* capture the mood and spirit of the University whilst at the same time allowing us just a glimpse of parts of Oxford that are often overlooked or forgotten.

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